

STATE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

The Missouri State Youth Advisory Board (SYAB) was established December 1992. The board may consist up to 21 youth and three non voting ex-officio members. Ex-officio members must be a current or former foster care youth who has served at least a one-year term as a board member or alternate, within the last three years. The SYAB meets on a quarterly basis. Each member of the board is a current or a recently aged out foster youth finishing their term. Each youth represents other youth in his/her region of the state. Regional membership is determined by how many youth reside in each region.

Recognizing that each SYAB member represents all children and youth who are in out-of-home placements, each SYAB member is responsible for providing policy and procedural input to the Children's Division administrative staff. The SYAB decides what goals and activities they want to pursue for upcoming meetings and carry those out accordingly. The SYAB also works as a network by bringing back important information to the Area Youth Advisory Board (AYAB), who in turn, takes information back to their Independent Living Program Specialists and youth in the Life Skills training classes. When recommended to serve on the SYAB, membership term is one (1) year. However, once a member, there are guidelines to follow in order to continue membership.

The mission of the SYAB is to empower out-of-home youth to provide input into the policies and procedures for out-of-home care; to provide meaningful leadership training and experiences for board members; and to empower board members who, in turn, can empower children and youth who have experienced out-of-home care.